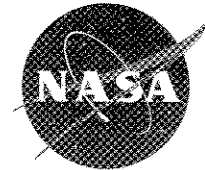


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
**George C. Marshall Space Flight Center**  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



September 9, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

LS01 (WAC)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ William A. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Approval for MSFC Employees with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend the 2008 Space Shuttle Suppliers' Symposium Sponsored by United Space Alliance

In accordance with 5 CFR. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Certain MSFC employees with senior institutional or project responsibilities have been invited to attend the 2008 Space Shuttle Suppliers' Symposium. The event will be sponsored by United Space Alliance (USA) and will be held at the Marriott in Huntsville, Alabama during September 15 – 17, 2008.

This year's event will be the sixth such symposium. A prime focus of the symposium will be the retention of the contractors that are critical to the Shuttle supply chain as NASA safely flies the remainder of its Shuttle flights. There will also be presentations and briefings on the overall outlook for the space program and on the Constellation Program, so that the suppliers will be aware of possible future opportunities that would require them to maintain their capabilities. There will be a small business fair to introduce industry suppliers to MSFC. Awards will be presented to recognize suppliers. In the past, this has been a very valuable symposium, and the support for it from the NASA Shuttle Program Manager has been its prime moving force.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of aerospace industry representatives and NASA personnel. There will not be a registration fee for attendance at the symposium, but an estimate for use of the facilities and provided meals is \$250.00 per person. USA anticipates 450 attendees – including about 80 NASA employees. The symposium is fully funded by contributions from USA. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

The purpose of the 2008 Space Shuttle Suppliers' Symposium is to bring together contractor companies that are currently involved in the Space Shuttle Program, and other space shuttle related contractual matters. MSFC personnel invited to attend this event

presently, or may in the near future, have extensive involvement in matters relating to the invitees of this event.<sup>1</sup> These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional or project responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future Space Shuttle Program and/or Constellation Program contracts.

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional and project leaders at the 2008 Space Shuttle Suppliers' Symposium is in the interest of the agency because it will provide a unique opportunity for the invited MSFC employees to hear from and interact with suppliers at all levels of the Shuttle Program, to share their views with industry counterparts, and to honor the best performing of the members of the supply chain that now support Shuttle operations, and who will eventually support the Constellation Program. Their attendance at the symposium will also support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional and project leaders attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, MSFC employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

According to the Symposium website, there is an optional golf tournament associated with the Symposium on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. This determination does include that tournament. Employees participating in that tournament must pay fees and costs associated with the tournament and arrange appropriate annual leave.

The Symposium schedule includes three meals on Tuesday and two meals on Wednesday. Employees attending the Symposium in a travel status are required to back-out any provided meals from their travel voucher.

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<sup>1</sup> These personnel include Center Director, Deputy Director and Associate Director; Director & Deputy Director, Engineering Directorate; Deputy Director, Engineering Directorate; Director, Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate; Deputy Director, Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate; Manager, Shuttle Assurance Department; Manager & Deputy Manager, Shuttle Propulsion Office; Chief Engineer & Deputy Chief Engineer, Shuttle Propulsion Office; Manager & Deputy Manager, Space Shuttle Main Engine Project; Chief Engineer, Space Shuttle Main Engine Project; Manager & Assistant Manager, RSRB Project; Manager, Deputy Manager, Assistant Manager & Chief Engineer, External Tank Project; Deputy Manager, Motor; Chief Engineer, Motor; Deputy Manager, Booster; Chief Engineer, Booster; Manager & Deputy Manager, Propulsion SE&I; Chief Engineer, Propulsion SE&I; Manager, Shuttle Procurement; Manager, Exploration Launch Office; Manager & Deputy Manager, ARES Project Office; Manager, ARES Upper Stage Engine; Supervisor, ARES Vehicle Integration; Supervisor, ARES Upper State Engine; Supervisor, Spacecraft & Vehicle Systems; Supervisor and Deputy, ARES First Stage; Chief Engineer, ARES; Associate Manager, Constellation Program; Technical Assistant to Propulsion Manager; Assistant Manager, Shuttle Program Planning & Control Office; Director & Deputy Director, Office of Procurement.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Bill Cassels at 256-544-0904.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. A. Bierbower". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a distinct "A".

William A. Bierbower  
Chief Counsel